(Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (ii) foreign investment being more than 24% in the equity capital of units manufacturing items reserved for small scale industries ; and (iii) all items which require an Industrial Licence in terms of the locational policy notified by Government under the New Industrial Policy of 1991.

2. All proposals in which the foreign collaborator has a previous venture/ tie-up in India.

3. All proposals relating to acquisition of shares in an existing Indian company in favour of a foreign /NRI/OCB investor.

4. All proposals falling outside notifed sectoral policy/caps or under sectors in which FDI is not permitted and/or whenever any investor chooses to make an application to the FIPB and not to avail of the automatic route.

All proposals for investment in public sector units as also for EOLVEPZ/ EHTP/STP units would qualify for automatic route subject to above parameters.

FDI In Tea Industry

†4441. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for 74 per cent foreign direct investment in tea industry :

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to accord permission for forward market to stabilise the prices of tea; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to allow 74 % foreign direct investment in tea industry is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) The Tea Board entrusted Indian Institute of Plantation management, Bangalore in September 1999 to carry out a feasibility study on Futures Market for Tea. They completed the study and submitted feasibility report on Futures Market for Tea in February 2000. One of the recommendations

† Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

is to constitute a committee comprising of the representatives of Producers' Associations, Traders' Associations, Forward Marketing Commission and Financial Institutions to consider the various recommendations of the report including those dealing with the location, structure, design and infrastructure and by laws of the proposed Tea futures exchange. Tea Board is now in the process of constituting a Task Force to look into the matter.

Export of groundnut

†4442. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of groundnut exported during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) whether the export has increased;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to export more and more to earn foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The total quantity and value of groundnut exported during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as follows :—

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs.crores)
1998-99 (Prov.)	55,574	138.48
April-June 99 (Prov.)	30,348	72.17

(Source : DGCI & S. Calcutta)

(d) Some of the steps taken to enchance exports of groundnut include sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys and accredition of laboratories for carrying out tests for affloatoxin in groundnut.

† Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.